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## GENERAL

1. French views on Italian colonies---US Ambassador Bruce in Paris, in commenting on the French attitude toward the Italian colonies question, expresses his belief that it is "illusory" to hope for French support in the General Assembly of any formula granting Libya independence within a two or three year period. Bruce points out that the French, fearing repercussions in French North Africa: (a) strongly oppose a united Libya under the Senussi, whose religious influence they fear; (b) are only slightly less concerned over early independence for Tripolitania; and (c) might "resign" themselves to Cyrenaican independence if Tripolitania could serve as an insulating cushion between Cyrenaica and Tunisia.

Bruce stresses the advantages of attempting to delay independence, at least for Tripolitania, in return for concrete French assurances to use the time thus gained in preparing French North Africa for "something approaching dominion status." According to Bruce, such a proposal, by permitting a "parallel evolution" of the various components of North Africa, would provide the best means of solving the area's basic problem of nationalism. Bruce points out, however, that it would be useless to approach the French with anything less than a ten-year transition period.

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